

REMARKS

This Amendment and election is responsive to the Office Action dated May 3, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 6 through 9, 11 through 17 and 19 remain pending. Claims 3 through 5, 10, 18 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 6, 11 through 14 and 16 have been amended. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Favorable consideration and examination of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action required restriction to one of two claimed inventions. The first group (Group I) was identified as "a system means for adding relevant information mutually associated with the specific data referring to the relevant information." The second group (Group II) was identified as "a system means for storing data in effective period, notifying the expiration when the effective period expires, and performing data processing due to expiration of the effective period at receiving the notice, which is data management concurrency." Original claims 1 through 5, 17 and 19 were grouped together as drawn to Group I. Original claims 6 through 16, 18 and 20 were grouped together as drawn to Group II.

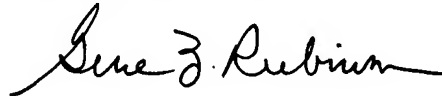
In response to the requirement for restriction, the invention of Group I is elected for prosecution. All remaining claims 1, 2, 6 through 9, 11 through 17 and 19 are drawn to the elected invention. Formerly independent claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 6 no longer recites "managing information comprising required matters including an effective period as one data unit and preparing following data corresponding to the data when the effective period of the data expires." This recitation, it is submitted, is the distinguishing feature of the nonelected embodiment of the invention of Group II.

It is submitted that basis exists in the specification, at page 28, lines 15-20, to support the claim 6 dependency, as amended, from claim 1. The dependency of claim 11 has been changed to stem from claim 6, and the dependency of claim 14 has been changed to stem from claim 2. The additional claim amendments are all of a minor nature to correct errors of translation found upon review of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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